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To: paul.habib@lacity.org
Cc: [Kent Smith \(kent@fashiondistrict.org\)](mailto:Kent.Smith_(kent@fashiondistrict.org))
Subject: Official Statement from Fashion District re: sidewalk vending lawsuit
Date: Thursday, October 29, 2015 3:14:00 PM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)
[image005.png](#)
[image006.png](#)

Paul,

As you may know the LA Fashion District has been included in the lawsuit with LAPD on sidewalk vending possessions. Below is the Fashion District's Official Statement.

Statement From the Los Angeles Fashion District Business Improvement District

The LA Fashion District was established in 1996 as the first property based BID in Los Angeles.

One of our primary purposes is to keep the Fashion District clean and safe. As part of this task we maintain over 200 trash receptacles and actively remove all trash from the district.

Currently we remove over 12,000 pounds (6 tons) of trash a day just within our 100 block district, the majority of which has been illegally dumped here.

We contract with Chrysalis, a non-profit agency who provides formerly homeless individuals who are trying to change their lives for the better. Chrysalis assists in the cleanup to help with the trash.

For 15 years we have worked with both County Health & LAPD to dispose of items when either or both of these agencies conduct enforcement operations for un-permitted vending in the neighborhood. As you know, some of the unsanitary conditions and the obvious code violations are why these agencies perform their enforcement. The LA Fashion District's role is limited. We simply dispose of perishable, contaminated and abandoned property that would otherwise be left in our district without the BID's assistance. We have performed this role using the same protocols for 15 years.

Our policy is not to confiscate or unlawfully take property from any individual. We do not want to unlawfully seize the property of anyone, including un-permitted vendors.

We acknowledge that there can be misunderstandings between reasonable individuals about the process of disposing of trash in the Fashion District.

To that end, as a result of a phone conversation with Ms. Anderson-Baker a few weeks ago, we engaged in the process of establishing more detailed protocols and to collaborate with her and her team. We were actually quite welcome to their input.

Needless to say, we are disappointed to have the Los Angeles Times be the first to make us aware of a pending lawsuit from this same group. It is clearly not mere coincidence that this lawsuit was filed while our Board has become more public with the media and City Council

about our views concerning un-permitted vending.

We find it very disappointing, although not surprising, that The Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles attempted to act as judge and jury through their press conference, rather than engage in meaningful conversation and discussion. The allegations set forth in the complaint will now have to be dealt with by all parties in federal court. This is energy that could (and should) have been better spent through a collaborative and interactive process, including an open meeting with us, and perhaps offering to have us present at the press conference as well.

Despite these tactics, the LA Fashion District will continue to express its views on un-permitted vending and will work with City Council, County Health and indeed vendor advocates to develop regulations for our neighborhood.

Our goal has been, and will continue to be to promote the safety of patrons visiting the district, as well as those that work within our BID.

Thanks,

Rena Masten Leddy | Managing Director



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